

Minutes of Sweetser Town Council
February 25, 2021

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chuck Briede at 7:00 pm; the roll was called as follows:
Kyle Taylor-Present
Matt Stewart—Arrived after Public Forum
Travis LeMaster—Present
Dave Fox—Absent
Chuck Briede-Present

The roll was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer offered by Matt Stewart.

II. **Minutes**

Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2021 meeting as written. Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Kyle Taylor-Aye
Matt Stewart-Arrived after Public Forum
Travis LeMaster-Aye
Dave Fox-Absent
Chuck Briede-Aye

III. **Bills**

After discussion, Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve the paying of the bills as written. Kyle Taylor seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye
Matt Stewart-Arrived after the Public Forum
Travis LeMaster-Aye
Dave Fox-Absent
Chuck Briede-Aye

IV. **Public Forum**

- No comments

V. **Department Reports**

Maintenance Dept.—Superintendent Devin Cole was not in attendance.

- Devin submitted materials and prices for a trailer for the camera. Matter was tabled.
- Matt asked if the obsolete assets related to the pending vac truck replacement had been declared surplus. They have not been so designated yet.

Police Department Dept.—Marshal Ryan Hornback was not in attendance.

- Ryan reported via email that in general things were going well within the department. He indicated that due to scheduling conflicts he may need to seek a replacement for deputy Tyler Jenkins.
- Chuck said we are going on two years with the current format of one full-time marshal supplemented with part-time deputies, as contrasted with the former set-up of a full-time marshal and a full-time deputy marshal, and sought the council's opinion on the perceived effectiveness of the current arrangement and whether to maintain it or return to the prior plan. Consensus of the council is the current set-up is working well and there are no compelling reasons to alter course at this time.

Parks Department—President Steve Kelley was in attendance.

- Steve received 4 bids for repairing the caboose: repairs include new beams on each end of the caboose, replace three windows on the south side, and rebuild the windows around the cupola. Steve summarized the proposals for the council and said the only complete bid was the one of \$6,953.94 from Hutchens Construction. The bid contains a window allowance of \$1,700. After discussion:

Matt Stewart made a motion to accept the bid of \$6,953.94 from Hutchens Construction to repair the caboose. Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Absent

Chuck Briede-Aye

- There was a discussion of the need to seal the trail in the near future and the estimated costs to do so. Matter tabled.
- Kyle reminded the council that the Grant County Visitor's Bureau has indicated a willingness to assist in the financing and promotion of the train if the town can devise a plan for making the train cars an attraction for visitors to the area.
- Steve suggested some other projects that need to be done this year:
 - The post needs redone in the wooden box around the sign at 700 West.
 - Some of the other posts at 700 West have been pulled up or loosened and need to be reset.
 - The caboose needs to be repainted.
- Kyle initiated a discussion of developing a plan to access the possible \$20,000 matching grant (total project of \$40,000) from the Community Foundation for developing the train cars as a tourist attraction.

VI. Continuing Business

- Chuck resumed consideration of the proposed trail use ordinance. After discussion:

Matt Stewart made a motion pass on the first reading Ordinance 2021-1 "An Ordinance Regulating Vehicular Traffic on Trails, Multi-Use Paths, and Sidewalks". Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Absent

Chuck Briede-Aye

- Chuck resumed discussion of the ordinance codification proposal from American Legal Publishing Corporation. After discussion:

Matt Stewart made a motion to accept the proposal from American Legal Publishing Corporation to codify the ordinances of the Town of Sweetser. Kyle Taylor seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Absent (had to leave after the trial ordinance vote)

Dave Fox-Absent

Chuck Briede-Aye

- Steve submitted a proposal from Winterland for the purchase of replacements for the existing Christmas lights and the purchase of additional Christmas lights. Matter was tabled pending clarification of how much it will cost to install electric lines to the poles that do not have power currently.
- Chuck and Matt said that people are already showing interest in the Hometown Heroes banner project.
- There was a brief discussion of the rental of the Newhouse parking lot for the Sesquicentennial. There is no update on an agreement at this time. There was consideration given to applying some additional stone to the lot prior to the 150th event. Matter tabled.
- Steve resumed the discussion and consideration of the asset tracking system, "MyAssetTag" from AssetTiger. Steve distributed information about the capabilities and costs of the service and physical tags. After discussion:

Kyle Taylor made a motion to approve the purchase of the AssetTiger service and 500 of the MyAssetTags. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Absent (had to leave after the trial ordinance vote)

Dave Fox-Absent

Chuck Briede-Aye

- Matt reported that Habitat for Humanity is interested in the developing the Bragg Street property if and when the town acquires title.
- Kyle mentioned that the council still needs to appoint department liaisons.

VII. New Business

- Rob Peters from Colonial Life was in attendance. Colonial Life provides supplementary medical, life, and accident policies that can be offered to employees on a voluntary basis. Mr. Peters distributed materials to the council and summarized the various policy options and how they work to complement and supplement the current benefit offerings. After discussion, the consensus of council is to solicit proposals from several companies for supplemental benefits and, when the time comes, to solicit proposals for the primary medical, dental, and vision benefits.
- Kyle reported that Grant County now has a non-smoking regulation and is providing signs to encourage compliance. The ordinance will be enforced by the Sheriff's department and thus fines for violations would be remitted to the county. Kyle recommended that the town adopt a similar ordinance. After discussion, matter tabled.
- Chuck initiated discussion of the need to replace the phones and answering machine at town hall for the clerk's office and the police department (police department does not have an answering machine). Chuck has a concern about the inability of people calling the police department to leave a message. Unanswered calls use to be routed to the county dispatch, but since the county went to central dispatch, that is no longer the case. There was discussion of how best to remedy the situation. Matter was tabled.
- Clerk recommended that the council authorize Chuck Briede to enter to and sign contracts on behalf of the town in Dave's absence.

Matt Stewart made a motion authorize council president Richard (Dave) Fox to sign contracts and agreements on the town's behalf for calendar year 2021 and, in Dave's absence, to authorize council vice-president Charles (Chuck) Briede to sign contracts and agreements on the town's behalf during calendar year 2021. Kye Taylor seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Absent (had to leave after the trial ordinance vote)

Dave Fox-Absent

Chuck Briede-Aye

- Clerk reported that INDOT had advised that the Local Roads and Bridges Matching Grant Agreement Contract #A249-21-LG2000595 in the amount of \$178,825.50 needed to be re-signed.

Chuck Briede made a motion to approve the re-signing of Local Roads and Bridges Matching Grant Agreement Contract #A249-21-LG2000595 in the amount of \$178,825.50. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Absent (had to leave after the trial ordinance vote)

Dave Fox-Absent
Chuck Briede-Aye

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Potter
